

news to date—a resurgence in the fighting. NATO has come in.

We cannot just address one portion of the Middle East conflict without seeing how the manner in which we address that could affect the other areas, notably Afghanistan and Iraq.

So I say to my colleagues, as I said Friday night, we urge our President, our administration, as they take such, hopefully, bold and firm and convincing initiatives in regard to the conflicts in Israel and Gaza and Lebanon, to be mindful of how it could impact on our conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and our negotiations thus far with Iran in participating with other nations—not unilaterally—to try to bring about some resolution of what many of us considered up until this conflict—and I am not sure how we are going to eventually characterize the magnitude and the future potential spreading of this conflict—but certainly up until this conflict, in my judgment, the potential of Iran gaining nuclear weapons was absolutely—there was nothing more serious, in my judgment, than to try to resolve that.

There is no reference in here to the other Arab nations. It is quite interesting; some of those nations have come forward in strong condemnation, joined our country, joined other nations, in condemning Hamas and Hezbollah. That is of importance.

Now we see today that so many nations say the United States must take a stronger role in trying to work our way through this conflict, yes, supporting Israel but at the same time trying to bring about some resolution to spare the life and limb and suffering in Palestine, Lebanon, and Israel, to see that it not spread to other areas.

Now, our President has indicated that the Secretary of State will soon embark on a mission. What we say in the Senate must be carefully drafted so it does not remove the flexibility that our Secretary of State—a very able person—will need in helping to resolve this problem.

So I say that historically this Nation has stood steadfast, and I am proud that I have been among those in this Chamber in my 28 years here, to strongly support Israel. Our Nation is viewed upon as an honest broker—recognizing our support of Israel but as an honest broker. If the world is going to look to us as to how we can provide that leadership, I do not want any loss of flexibility on the part of the President and the Secretary of State and such others who may be tasked to try to work out this situation.

Yes, I conclude our support for Israel is very strong, Mr. President, but it cannot be unconditional.

I yield the floor.

#### CONDEMNING HEZBOLLAH

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of a resolution the Senate is expected to soon consider, and which I have cosponsored,

along with Senator FRIST, who is the lead sponsor, and Senators REID, BIDEN, SANTORUM, NELSON of Florida, KYL, BOND, and LEVIN. It is a resolution that condemns Hezbollah and expresses support for Israel's right to self defense.

All of us are watching in horror what is happening there, and I think it is important that the United States Senate speak forcefully in support of our President. The G-8 leaders have spoken this week to condemn Hezbollah and terrorist activities and to ask the Government of Lebanon to help find the Israeli soldiers who are being held hostage and free them and to disarm Hezbollah.

Mr. President, there should be no misunderstanding. Israel has fully complied with the United Nations mandate. They have no forces in Lebanon and yet they have continued to withstand attack after attack from Hezbollah.

We watched with sadness last year when Lebanon's former Prime Minister was assassinated by terrorists.

I think we have to put the blame where we believe it lies. We know Iran and Syria are infiltrating Lebanon with support for Hezbollah and Hamas.

We know Hezbollah and Hamas are committed to the destruction of Israel. Since 1948 it has been forced to continually fight for its very existence, and yet in the middle of this it has stood as a democratic form of government, with a free economy. Israel has never backed away from its fundamental commitment to freedom and human liberty.

So, Mr. President, I think this is something the United States Senate should stand firm with this bipartisan resolution that says we do support our President and the G-8 leaders and condemn Hezbollah. We encourage the Government of Lebanon, to stop these attacks on Israel, and locate and return the soldiers who have been taken hostage. Let's add our voice to that of the unified leaders of the world who are saying this should not be allowed to happen.

We must speak together, we must stay together, we must support Israel's right to self-defense and understand that they should have the support of a unified world community, saying to the terrorists and the governments that are supporting the terrorists—Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, Syria supporting them—that the world is not going to sit by and let people be terrorized. This is a global war on terror, and we must speak.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Kansas for allowing me to speak. I know I am speaking during the stem cell debate. The resolution will be considered soon, and I wanted to speak on the floor because I think it is so important what is happening in the world today, and we must speak as a unified voice in the Senate.

#### VISIT TO NEW ORLEANS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I recently made a brief visit to New Orleans to see for myself where things stand now, not quite 11 months after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast. Katrina, of course, was the first of two major hurricanes to ravage that area last year. I only had the chance to see a small part of the area hit by that first storm, but what I did see was striking.

The news reports cannot fully convey the devastation or the enormity of the problems the region faces in trying to put things back in working order. One problem feeds into another. Businesses can't get back up and running without employees. Workers don't want to return without a safe place to live, without a school for their children, and without health care and other essential services upon which we all rely. Hospitals and other health providers face the same staffing shortages that businesses face. The neighborhood schools face challenges both in the physical infrastructure—providing a safe place in which kids can learn—and staffing shortages. All of these issues must be addressed.

Housing is an overarching challenge. I saw neighborhood after neighborhood still empty and unlivable. The outside shell of some homes was still standing, but the inside was uninhabitable because of the flood of toxic liquid filth that soaked into those houses.

I also saw lots where homes had stood but where now there was nothing but a slab of concrete. While many are living in the notorious FEMA trailers, many others, I understand, are having a hard time getting approval for a trailer. I was pleased to learn a little bit more about the so-called Katrina cottages that might be an alternative to the trailers, and I look forward to learning still more about them.

So much still needs to be done that one can be overwhelmed by the size of the task that remains. I have a great deal of respect for those who have made the commitment to remain in or move back to the city, for those who are working to make the neighborhoods habitable again, for the State and local law enforcement, the National Guard, and all the other dedicated individuals who are working so hard to bring the region back.

I still have a lot to learn about the particulars of what is needed in New Orleans and the other areas ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—what is working, what has not worked, what Congress can still do to help. My central message today is that people from other parts of the country should not think that the gulf coast has recovered from those two hurricanes. That simply isn't the case. People are making progress, but there is still a very long way to go.

To put it in perspective, I will compare it to another place I visited earlier this year: Banda Aceh, Indonesia. I was there in February, a little more

than a year after it was devastated by the tsunami in late 2004. Having been to both places, I was struck by what the people in Banda Aceh and New Orleans had in common, both because of what they went through and because of the incredible resilience they have shown in the wake of those tragedies. But I was just as struck by how those places differed—especially how, in many ways, New Orleans seemed worse off than Banda Aceh did a year after the disaster.

When I visited Banda Aceh in February 2006—a little over a year after the original tsunami hit—though many of the reconstruction programs had yet to be completed, there was visible progress being made, thanks in large part to the generosity of the American taxpayer. I saw homes, roads, buildings, and bridges being built with funds that the American Government generously gave to the victims of the tsunami.

I strongly support the aid we have given to those in Banda Aceh and others who were the victims of the tsunami in 2004, and no one disputes that we have responsibility to help them rebuild. But we cannot let the disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita be forgotten. We have a special duty to the people of the Gulf Coast who still need us. Almost a year later, after more than 1,500 people were killed and countless lives were disrupted, our fellow Americans do still need us. We still need to stand by them as they rebuild their lives, and I know the people of Wisconsin stand ready to help.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF A GREAT COLORADAN

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the life of Edward G. Eid, the head of the Colorado State Soccer Association, CSSA, who died recently while attending the World Cup soccer tournament in Munich, Germany.

Ed Eid passionately believed in the power of soccer to bring people together. He knew that the beautiful game, as we saw in this year's World Cup, can bridge national, linguistic, racial, economic, and cultural gaps.

Ed Eid used soccer to strengthen and bind communities in our State and across the globe. As a coach, he took a team to compete behind the Iron Curtain, recognizing that shared passions for sport could warm a relationship between superpowers. At CSSA he reached out to teams from immigrant communities, helping kids from all walks of life learn the game and participate in leagues.

When Ed Eid immigrated to the U.S. in 1958, soccer had not yet entered the American mainstream. The sport

thrived in immigrant communities, but the U.S. had neither a professional league nor its own soccer icons. After fighting through adversity and discrimination to become a successful entrepreneur, Eid dedicated more and more time to helping the game he loved gain ground. Thanks to his efforts, and the efforts of other visionaries like him, soccer is the most widely played game in America.

Mr. Eid is survived by a wonderful family. He was especially proud of his two grandchildren, Alex and Emily Eid. Earlier this year he saw his daughter-in-law, Allison, appointed by Governor Bill Owens to the Colorado Supreme Court. And he saw his son, Troy, nominated by President Bush to be Colorado's next U.S. Attorney.

The legacy of Ed Eid's life is clear. In the soccer leagues of Colorado, in all the communities he has touched, and in a sport whose popularity is growing by leaps and bounds, he will be sorely missed.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 7:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 655. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

H.R. 2872. An act to require the Secretary the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 125. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 9. An act to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7537. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the military operations of the Armed Forces and the reconstruction activities of the Department of Defense in Iraq and Afghanistan for the period ending April 30, 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7538. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Citizenship Documentation Requirements" (RIN0938-AO51) received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7539. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under contract in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more to Germany; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7540. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Regulations for the Academic Competitiveness Grant and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant Programs, and Grant and Loan Program Amendments; Interim Rule" received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7541. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Idaho" (FRL No. 8191-6) received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7542. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 8185-1) received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7543. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; NSR in the Ozone Transport Region" (FRL No. 8196-8) received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7544. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Redesignation of the City of Weirton PM-10 Non-attainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 8197-1) received on July 11, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7545. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled